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REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated June 30, 2006, in which claims 1-3, 8-13, 16-18, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claims 4-7, 14-15, 19-20, and 23 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

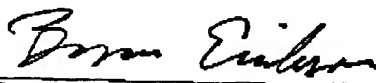
The applicants have canceled claims 1, 18, and 21; amended claims 4-5, 7, 15, and 19-20, from among the claims indicated to be allowable, to include all the subject matter of their parent claims, with additional subject matter added to claim 4 from the allowable claim 14, and claim 23 to include most of the subject matter of its parent claims; and amended claims 2-3, 8, 12-13, 16-17, and 22 to depend on base claims already indicated as allowable.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 2-17, 19-20, and 22-23 are now allowable, due at least to the prior indication of allowability of subject matter now incorporated in each of these pending claims, and request that claims 2-17, 19-20, and 22-23 be allowed.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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